

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 DHA-02 /092 W

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P R 170851Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7023

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 6095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, O, SP SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: GOM CONTINUING STRESS THEME OF "REMEMBERING" THOSE NATIONS WHICH SUPPORTED IT AND THOSE WHICH OPPOSED DURING RECENT SAHARA EVENTS. MOROCCAN ARMY CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN ITS PRESENCE IN NORTHERN SAHARA AND IS PROVIDING SOME TROOPS AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN SOUTH, ON "MAURITANIAN FRONT." MEANWHILE, IFPOLISARIO CLAIMS TO HAVE INITIATED ACTIONS INSIDE MOROCCO. GOM SEEMS TO BE MOVING AWAY FROM MADRID TRIPARTITE FORMULA STIPULATING KEY ROLE OF JEMAA TOWARD A MORE FUZZY CONCEPT OF ENDORSEMENTS BY SAHARAN NOTABLES AND LEADERS, AS HIGHLY POLARIZED SITUATION IN SAHARA INCREASINGLY RULES OUT MEANINGFUL "CONSULTATIONS" WITH POPULATION. ALTHOUGH THERE LITTLE VISIBLE PREOCCUPATION IN RABAT AT MOMENT OVER POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH ALGERIA AND WE JUDGE MOROCCO
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UNLIKELY TO INITIATE HOSTILITIES, SITUATION REMAINS DANGEROUS

IN VIEW OF CONTINUING MUTUAL HOSTILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. KING AGAIN THANKS NATIONS FOR SUPPORT DURING SAHARA MARCH. KING, DURING DEC. 14 AUDIENCE FOR CHIEF OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ON OCCASION OF AID EL KEBIR, TOOK OCCASION TO ASK THAT MESSAGE OF THANKS BE TRANSMITTED TO HEADS OF STATE OF "THOSE COUNTRIES" WHICH SUPPORTED MOROCCO DURING SAHARA MARCH. MESSAGE, WHICH KING DELIVERED JUST A FEW FEET AWAY FROM VISIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR, PLEDGED MOROCCO'S ETERNAL GRATITUDE. IN FOLLOW-UP REMARKS TO PEOPLE, KING CALLED ON MOROCCANS TO APPLY SAME DETERMINATION DISPLAYED IN MARCH TO IMPROVING MOROCCAN ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURE.

3. COVERING OTHER SIDE OF COIN, DEC. 16 SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AMOEBAS" ATTACKED THOSE "MINI-STATES" WHICH, HAVING LOST ALL HOPE OF RECONSTITUTING THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOUGHT THROUGH "JEALOUSY" AND "SPITE" TO CONDEMN OTHERS TO DIVISION. IDENTIFYING THEM AS BEING "SEPARATED BY A MERIDIAN, A WALL, OR BY THE IMAGINARY LINE OF ATILAN," EDITORIAL ACCUSED THEM OF "MULTIPLICITY" AND "DUPLICITY." COMMENT. ARTICLE WAS APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT OBSCURE ATTACK ON EASTERN EUROPEANS, THOSE AFRICANS, AND OTHERS WHO VOTED AGAINST MOROCCO IN UNGA. END COMMENT.

4. MORE REACTION TO UN VOTE: GOM'S MOST DEFINITIVE COMMENT ON UN VOTING TO DATE WAS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP STORY IN DEC. 13 LE MATIN. STORY SAID "SPAIN, MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO CONSIDERED THEMSELVES SOLEMNLY INVITED" BY SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF PRO-MOROCCAN RESOLUTION "TO FOLLOW UP WITH APPLICATION TRIPARTITE ACCORD." ARTICLE CRITICIZED THOSE (WITHOUT NAMING ALGERIANS) "WHO MOBILIZED EVERY MEANS.... TO MAKE UN THE MAIN SCENE OF AN OFFENSIVE CARRIED OUT BY A MINI-GROUP WHICH THEY MANIPULATING...." ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT GOM ARMY IN SAHARA CARRYING OUT "DUTY OF ANY NATIONAL ARMY TO PROTECT POPULATION AND MAINTAIN ORDER." NOTED THAT TRIPARTITE ADMINISTRATION "COLLABORATING TOTALLY" IN CARRYING OUT "DEFINITIVE TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS." DISMISSED CHARGES OF "GENOCIDE" BROADCAST BY "SO-CALLED SAHARANS" AND DENIED ACCOUNTS BY "SECESSIONIST MERCENARIES" OF THEIR MILITARY EXPLOITS. MOROCCO, ARTICLE CONCLUDED, CARRYING OUT REALIZATION ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
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IN "SENSE OF HONOR, LOVE OF PEACE, AND RESPECT OF ITS PARTNERS."

5. FOLLOWING COMPLETION UNGA SAHARA DELIBERATIONS, FONMIN LARAKI RETURNED TO RABAT DEC. 12.

6. "CONSULTATIONS" WITH SAHARANS. TWO MORE GROUPS OF SAHARANS, ONE FROM EL AYOUN AND THE OTHER FROM SMARA, WERE IN RABAT OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND. THE GROUPS WERE VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED

IN THE PRESS AS CHEIKHS, TRIBAL LEADERS, ANDJEMAA MEMBERS,
BUT AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST SPECIFICS AS TO THEIR IDENTITIES
WERE AVOIDED.

7. ALGERIAN RELATIONS. LE MATIN DEC. 13 CARRIED MAP STORY
ALLEGING THAT 207 MOROCCANS RESIDENT IN ALGERIA HAD BEEN EXPELLED
DEC. 11. STORY REPORTED THAT 70 OF THEM WERE FORCED TO LEAVE
THEIR CHILDREN BEHIND AND THAT MANY OF THOSE EXPELLED HAD BEEN
INCARCERATED UNDER "INHUMAN" CONDITIONS FOR FIVE DAYS.

8. EMBASSY RECEIVED TRACT DEC. 15 MAILED FROM PARIS ALLEGING
TO CONVEY VIEWS OF BANNED RADICAL STUDENT GROUP, NATIONAL
UNION OF MOROCCAN STUDENTS (UNEM). CITING ANNIVERSARY OF
DISAPPEARANCE MAHDI BEN BARKA, TRACT CHARGED THAT "REACTION
AND IMPERIALISM" BEHIND SAHARA IMBROGLIO WITH AIM OF DIVIDING
ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN PEOPLES. CALLED ON ARAB "REVOLUTIONARIES"
TO FOIL PLANS OF "IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM." MOROCCAN COMMUNIST
PARTY (PPS) JOURNAL, AL BAYANE, COMMENTED ON DEC. 15 ON
"SO CALLED" UNEM TRACT AND RADIO ALGIERS' BROADCAST OF IT,
ACCUSING BOTH AUTHORS AND DISSEMINATORS OF "MOST
SCREAMING DISHONESTY." WENT ON TO ACCUSE ALGERIAN OFFICIALS
OF HAVING " MAXIMUM OF BAD FAITH" IN PRETENDING THAT PAMPHLET
WRITTEN BY UNEM, AND SUGGESTING IT MAY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN PARIS
OR ALGIERS. (COMMENT: PPS WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH UNEM
WHILE THE ORGANIZATION WAS STILL LEGAL.)

9. IN DEC. 15 RADIO ALGIERS BROADCAST (FBIS REPORTING) F POLISARIO
CLAIMED THAT ITS FORCES, FOR FIRST TIME, HAD STRUCK INSIDE MOROCCAN
TERRITORY. F POLISARIO CLAIMED CREDIT FOR DEC. 10 MINING
OF GOM MILITARY VEHICLE ON TAN TAN ROAD. BROCAST ALSO
CLAIMED THAT THREE GOM BORDER POSTS (WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO
IDENTIFY FROM TEXT) "KNOW NO CALM."

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P R 170851Z DEC 75

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 6095

10. MAURITANIA RELATIONS. ISTIQLAL PARTY OFFICIAL IN DEC. 13 CONVERSATION RAISED GOM ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIANS IN SOUTHERN SAHARA, COMMENTING THAT ONGOING AIRLIFT TO MAURITANIA OF MATERIEL ALSO INCLUDED MOROCCAN TROOPS. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION TO DATE IN PRESS OF THIS ASSISTANCE, BUT GOM CAREFUL IN ALL ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON IMPLEMENTATION TRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS TO INCLUDED MENTION OF MAURITANIA.

11. COMMENT: GOM POSITION ON HOLDING "CONSULTATIONS" WITH SAHARANS MAY WELL BE EVOLVING AWAY FROM MADRID TRIPARTITE FORMULA STIPULATION OF KEY ROLE OF JEMMA--WITH WHICH GOM CLEARLY HAVING TROUBLES--TOWARD A MORE FUZZY CONCEPT OF VARIOUS ENDORSEMENTS BY SAHARAN NOTABLES AND TRIBAL LEADERS AND WHATEVER LEFT OF JEMAA MEMBERSHIP IN EL AYOUN. IN FACT, THE ALREADY HIGHLY POLARIZED SITUATION AMONG CONTENDING FORCES IN THE SAHARA PROBABLY PRECLUDES ANY MEANINGFUL DETERMINATION OF THE "WISHES" OF THE SAHARA PEOPLE
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AT THIS POINT.

12 MOROCCANS HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH CELEBRATION OF BIGGEST LOCAL FEAST OF YEAR AND ALSO SEEM TO BE BASKING A BIT IN WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF UN CAMPAIGN ON SAHARA. INCREASING STRIDENCY OF ALGERIA DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE FULLY REISTERED ON PUBLIC HERE, NO DOUBT DUE IN PART TO OTHER EMPHASES IN CONTROLLED PRESS. NEVERTHELESS, OCCUPATION OF EL AYOUN, PROVISION OF MEN AND MATERIEL TO MAURITANIA "FRONT," 10,000 MAN NEW RECRUITMENT FOR ARMED FORCES DECREED IN NOVEMBER , AND INCREASED URGENCY IN ARMS PROCUREMENT ABROAD ARE CONCRETE SIGNS THAT MOROCCO IS MOVING AHEAD AT FULL SPEED TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER SITUATION ARISES IN THE SOUTH OR EAST. GIVEN MOROCCO'S PRESENT PREOCCUPATION WITH CONSOLIDATING ITS HOLD IN SAHARA, ANY PREEMPTIVE THRUST BY THE GOM INTO THE TINDOUF AREA SEEMS UNLIKELY. FURTHERMORE, KING HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGHTS IN HIS MOST RECENT STATEMENTS TO DISCOURAGE IDEA OF WAR WITH ALGERIA

AS LIKELY OPTION. NEVERTHELESS, MOROCCO'S MOOD REMAINS BASIC-
ALLY HOSTILE TO ALGERIA; THIS COUPLED WITH DEVELOPMENTS CURRENTLY
BEING REPORTED BY EMBASSY ALGIERS SUGGEST THAT SITUATION
STILL DANGEROUS.
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